

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8494

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FOR THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AF, US

SUBJ: POSSIBLE VISIT BY THE SECRETARY TO KABUL

REF: A. TEHRAN 6007 B. TEHRAN 6882

1. BEFORE LEAVING WASHINGTON NAIM ASKED ME NOT TO PURSUE IN KABUL THE QUESTION OF A VISIT BY YOU UNTIL AFTER HE, NAIM, HAD RETURNED HERE. HE STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT THE INVITATION FOR YOU TO VISIT HERE IN CONNECTION WITH YOUR TEHRAN STOP IN EARLY AUGUST IS A FIRM ONE. NAIM RETURNED TO KABUL THIS MORNING, JULY 13, AND I EXPECT I WILL BE SEEING HIM WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS AND THAT HE WILL RAISE THE MATTER OF YOUR VISIT WITH ME.

2. WHILE, OF COURSE, DEFERRING TO AMBASSADOR BYROADE ON THIS MATTER, IT SEEMS TO ME THAT BHUTTO HAS A VALID POINT AS REPORTED REFTEL (B) WHEN HE URGED YOU STOP IN ISLAMABAD IF YOU VISIT KABUL. IF YOU WANT TO MAKE BOTH STOPS QUICKLY, THIS COULD BE DONE. FOR EXAMPLE, YOU COULD LEAVE TEHRAN AT 0830, ARRIVING KABUL 1130, HAVE TALKS AND LUNCH HERE, DEPART FOR ISLAMABAD 1500 AND ARRIVE ISLAMABAD 1700, ALL TIMES LOCAL. THE AFGHANS, OF COURSE, WOULD BE DELIGHTED WERE YOU TO SPEND A NIGHT HERE, AND SUITABLE ACCOMMODATIONS ARE AVAILABLE.

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3. GIVEN THE SHAH'S CONCERNS ABOUT IRANIAN-AFGHAN

RELATIONS AS REFLECTED REFTEL (A), I CAN SEE SOME ADDITIONAL UTILITY IN YOUR COMING HERE AFTER SPEAKING WITH THE SHAH. I DO NOT KNOW PRECISELY WHAT THE SHAH WANTS FROM AFGHANISTAN, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE UNRESOLVED PROBLEMS INVOLVING THE WATERS OF THE HELMAND RIVER AND ILLEGAL AFGHAN IMMIGRANTS IN IRAN. AS THE AFGHANS ARE ASKING US TO HELP THEM POLITICALLY, IT WOULD BE USEFUL IN MY VIEW TO HAVE YOU TELL DAOUD THAT YOU BELIEVE, AFTER TALKING WITH THE SHAH, THAT AFGHANISTAN NEEDS TO DO MORE TO HELP ITSELF BY IMPROVING ITS RELATIONS WITH IRAN.

4. YOUR VISIT ALSO WOULD PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO UNDERLINE ONCE AGAIN TO THE AFGHANS THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO IMPROVED PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS, A POINT THAT WOULD BE TIMELY IN LIGHT OF DAOUD'S PROSPECTIVE RETURN VISIT TO PAKISTAN LATER IN AUGUST. IN ADDITION, YOUR VISIT WOULD BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE SOME POINTS TO DAOUD ABOUT MATTERS WHICH WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT WHICH HE WILL BE ATTENDING.

5. IN REGARD TO ADDITIONAL VISIBLE AMERICAN AID TO AFGHANISTAN AS REQUESTED BY NAIM, I HOPE THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO TELL THE AFGHANS THAT WE WILL MAKE A MAJOR EFFORT TO INCREASE OUR ASSISTANCE TO KABUL UNIVERSITY. BEFORE LEAVING WASHINGTON, I DISCUSSED THIS POSSIBILITY WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY ROBINSON AND AID ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR NOOTER. SINCE I RETURNED TO KABUL, THE AFGHAN PLANNING MINISTER HAS INDICATED THAT SUCH A PROJECT IS HIGH ON HIS PRIORITY LIST. I BELIEVE IT WOULD FIT INTO THE FRAMWORK OF PAST AID PROGRAM HERE AND BE COMPATIBLE WITH AID'S LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS AS WELL AS RESPONDING TO THE AGHAN NEED FOR AMERICAN VISIBILITY.

6. IN SUM, A VISIT BY YOU AT THIS TIME TO AFGHANISTAN WOULD NOT ONLY PROVIDE THE AFGHANS WITH A CLEAR DEMONSTRATION OUR INTEREST FOLLOWING UP NAIM'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON, BUT ALSO WOULD GIVE US AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO OUR OBJECTIVES IN THE REGION AND AT THE

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NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE.
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